

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

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R 191455Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5059

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SPINOLA, WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS

REF: LISBON 4193

1. FORMER PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL, ANTONIO SPINOLA, IS QUIETLY STAYING AT BROTHER'S ESTATE NEAR QUELUZ, ABOUT 18 MILES FROM LISBON. SPINOLA HAS MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE SINCE HIS SEPTEMBER RESIGNATION (REFTEL). FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE NUNES BARATA INFORMED EMBOFF NOV 14 THAT SPINOLA IS WRITING BOOK AND RECEIVING NUMEROUS PORTUGUESE VISITORS. ANOTHER SOURCE, IN PUBLISHING BUSINESS, CLAIMS SPINOLA HAS FINISHED HIS BOOK, A SEQUEL TO "PORTUGAL AND THE FUTURE," BUT IS RELUCTANT TO RELEASE IT AT THIS TIME.

2. FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE BARATA ALSO SAYS SPINOLA IS KEEPING CLOSE TRACK OF POLITICAL EVENTS AND ASSUMES HIS MOVEMENTS ARE MONITORED. PRESS HAS REPORTED SPINOLA'S MEETING TWO TIMES WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. ON OCCASION, ACCORDING TO BARATA, SPINOLA EATS LUNCH AT HOTEL EMBAIXADOR, ONE BLOCK FROM EMBASSY.

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3. COMMENT: SPINOLA'S DELIBERATELY LOW PROFILE RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER HIS ABSENCE WILL MAKE THE PORTUGUESE HEART GROW FONDER. ALTHOUGH RELIABLE SOURCES CLAIM HE HAS ALIENATED MANY OF HIS MOST STALWART SUPPORTERS, HE STILL REMAINS ONE OF THE FEW FIGURES ON THE PORTUGUESE SCENE WITH A NATIONAL FOLLOWING.
SCOTT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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